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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 002126

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TAGS: [ETTC](#) [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [IR](#) [AE](#)

SUBJECT: UAE: UPDATE ON SHUTTING DOWN ACTIVITIES OF COMPANIES ACQUIRING IED COMPONENTS

REF: A. STATE 67763

[B](#). ABU DHABI 1836

[C](#). ABU DHABI 1894

Classified By: Ambassador Michele J. Sison, reasons 1.4 b and d.

[1](#). (S) SUMMARY. On May 22, Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed (AbZ) asked for USG "patience" as UAE authorities looked into Mayrow-associated company linkages within the UAE and the Gulf region. AbZ reiterated several times that the UAEG took the information provided by the USG "very seriously" and was taking "all necessary steps" to investigate the companies in question, identify the individuals associated with them and the linkages among the firms, shut the firms down, and prevent the reappearance of such activities on UAE soil. He asked that the USG "not place the UAE in an awkward situation" while such investigations were underway. Three of the companies had been shut down, and the USG would receive an update on the remaining Mayrow-associated companies and individuals "in a week or so." END SUMMARY.

[2](#). (S) Embassy and ConGen have briefed federal and Dubai Emirate senior officials on the urgent need for updated information on actions taken to shut down the activities of Mayrow and associated Dubai-based companies suspected of acquiring IED components since the April 30 demarche to Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed and May 1 demarche to Dubai State Security Director Mohammed al Qemzi (refs A, B).

[3](#). (S/NF) The following summarizes Embassy and ConGen actions and UAEG responses:

--On May 19 and 21, Ambassador spoke with Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed (AbZ), emphasizing the need for updated information on Mayrow and associated companies. On May 19, she noted that three Dubai companies had been reported as closed and another two as being "on the way" to being closed (ref B). The status of the latter two, and that of two others (Yaghmaie and Ghasir), remained unclear.

--On May 21, Ambassador reported to AbZ that there was USG concern that Mayrow, or individuals associated therewith, had continued to operate since the April 30/May 1 demarches. She informed AbZ that Embassy and ConGen officers had contacted State Security Dubai directly on the need for a status report, and that information on actions taken against specific individuals was important as these individuals should not be permitted to relaunch their activities under new company names. AbZ agreed to follow up with SSO Dubai. He reiterated how seriously the UAEG took these reports, especially in view of the UAE Special Force presence in Afghanistan (250-strong).

--Per ref C, Dubai Customs agreed on May 6 to return a shipment of components destined for Atlinx Electronics to the United States and to enter Mayrow and associated companies into its data base. On May 22, Dubai Customs Audit Department informed DHS/ICE attach that Dubai Customs had discovered that another shipment (digital components and silicone) related to the May 6 seizure had been discovered. This second shipment had arrived in Dubai on May 2 and was subsequently released to Atlinx before Dubai Customs had entered of Mayrow or associated companies its database (ref C). Note: as of May 22, neither Dubai Customs nor DHS/ICE attach has any information of subsequent U.S. origin-shipments arriving in Dubai destined for Mayrow or associated companies.

--On May 20, SIMO asked SSO for an update on SSO activities against Mayrow and related companies and the individuals associated with them. However, as of May 22, SSO has not yet provided a response. Further details are being reported via separate channel.

--Ambassador informed Foreign Minister AbZ May 22 afternoon that -- although three companies have been reported as closed

-- the lack of updated information could well result in public and media scrutiny of why two (and possibly more) of the eight companies named in ref A demarche were still apparently operating three weeks after federal and Dubai authorities were notified of USG concerns. An hour later, the Foreign Minister telephoned Ambassador to report that details on the remaining five Mayrow-linked companies would be provided "within a week or so." He requested Washington's forbearance as the UAE authorities looked into Mayrow-associated company linkages within UAE and the Gulf region. AbZ reiterated several times that the UAEG took the information provided by the USG "very seriously" and was taking all necessary steps to investigate the companies in question, identify the individuals associated with them and the linkages among the firms, shut the firms down, and prevent the reappearance of such activities on UAE soil. He asked that the USG "not place the UAE in an awkward situation" while such investigations were underway. He added that "20 of the 24 Iranian companies in Dubai" of concern to the U.S. and UAE had been closed.

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